

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

October 27, 1962
4:30 p.m.

TO: G - Alexis Johnson
FROM: IO - Woodruff Wallner (1.2).

Here is John McCloy's draft of a possible Presidential reply to Khrushchev which has just reached us from USUN. May I suggest that you have someone call Governor Stevenson's office to say that it is receiving consideration in the White House Drafting Group. I will be glad to do this if you wish to call me.

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Dear Mr. Chatham:

I have read your letter of October 6th with great care and find in it the indication of a willingness on your part to seek a prompt solution to the problem. I welcome that and assure you that my desire is the same.

The first thing that needs to be done, however, is for work to cease on offensive missile bases in Cuba and for all weapon systems in Cuba capable of offensive use rendered inoperable.

Assuming this is done promptly I have given my representatives in New York instructions that will permit them, this weekend, to work out an arrangement for a permanent solution to the Cuban problem with the Acting Secretary General and with your representative. If you will give your representative similar instructions, there is no reason why we should not be able to complete these arrangements and announce them to the world within a couple of days.

I note and welcome the indications in your second letter, which you have made public, that you would like to work toward a more general arrangement as regards "other armaments". I would like to say again that we very much want to move in this direction. If your mention of Turkey signifies that you are prepared to discuss a detente affecting the whole

of Europe, we are, of course, quite prepared to consider with our Allies the suggestions that you and your partners in the Warsaw Pact might have in mind. I think that the mutual explanations in which you and I have been engaged the past few days and the discussions in New York have gone far enough to set forth a very concrete agenda for peace, pending upon the removal of the ~~xxxxxx~~ weapons in Cuba and the accompanying guarantees of Cuban independence. But to continue work on the missile bases or to prolong a discussion of removing missiles and other offensive weapons from Cuba by linking these problems to the broader questions of European and world security would intensify the Cuban crisis to all of those would be a grave risk to the peace of the world which you have described in your letter of yesterday. I therefore most earnestly urge you to join us in a rapid settlement of the Cuban crisis on the basis of your letter of October 6th ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ so that we can then go on to an early solution of the other serious problems, which I am convinced, are not insoluble.

EXCISED COPY FOLLOWS

October 27, 1962

4:30 p.m.

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TO: G - Alexis Johnson
FROM: IO - Woodruff Wallner

sent to G &
W.H.
10/27/62
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October 27, 1950 4 p.m.

POLICY DRAFT - REPLY TO KHRUSHCHEV.

Dear Mr. Khrushchev:

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